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needs are added.

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of the girl who had called herself Roberta holding her off until I could get a line on

Hoyt!
"I'm not sure," she went on in a tremulous whisper, as if answering a question.
"But last night some one called me on 'phone three times. . . . No, no, of They're course not; but don't you see? trying to identify my voice; they suspect me. . . . Yes, at two o'clock this morning."

I understood now. She was telephon-

ing. Her voice rose:

"I couldn't stand being alone any longer. Every time the bell rings, I don't trust her. think they're coming. I don't trust her. I want to go away. . . . I'll do anything you say—you know that; but you'll send me some word-

I coughed deliberately, and she stopped short. I stood at the closed door a mo-ment, listening. I had made up my mind to speak to her, but I wished to be sure first that she was alone. Then, to my amazement, she spoke:

"Sorry I disturbed you."

My lips opened to return some polite formula. Then, my wits collecting, I whispered softly at the door-crack:
"Miss Hoyt!"

Utter silence followed.

Utter silence followed.

I raised my voice a trifle and repeated the name. "This is Dick Terrill," I added. "Don't you remember me? We had tea together Tuesday."

"Oh!" Hardly more than a breath, it had in it both enlightenment and relief.

"What are you doing here?" she said.

"I'm only here for the night. I just wanted you to know how I happened to overhear what you said at the 'phone.

overhear what you said at the and I thought you would be glad to know

it was somebody you could—trust."

"I am, thank you." After a moment, a little uncertainly: "What you heard

must have sounded—odd.",
"Not at all," I lied hastily. wish you'd let me help you. Of course, I've known for several days that you must be awfully worried, but I didn't know where you were. When I heard know where you were. When I heard your voice just now, I had to let you know I was here, ready to do anything I can. I have your locket still, and I've

told no one about meeting you."
"Oh—why not?" she asked.
"Because, after Dr. Rice and the cab-

man reported seeing you, I heard the doubt expressed that—that you were—Miss Hoyt." It was hard to get out, but I thought she ought to know it.

"No; but some people are saying so."
"Then why didn't you contradict them? Why didn't you show the locket? That's

"Because I was not sure it was bestmean, that it was what you would wish."

"But surely you might have known that. Did I behave like a person with anything to hide? Listen," she continued. "If you really want to help me, take that locket to Mr. Rosser as soon as possible, and tell him everything."

"About to-night also?"

"Good faintly.

"No, no! Don't mention that. It-it isn't necessary.'

"But they'll go to the tea-room to verify my story, and—"
"Well, it's true."

I HESITATED, then decided to speak. Cleverly as she had masked her alarm, her words at the telephone were evidence enough that she was in some trouble, and ignorance of her true position would not

serve her.
"That waitress at the tea-room says you are not Miss Hoyt.'

"What reason did she give?"
"Your voice." I tried to say it simply, but I was so conscious of her own remark about her voice that I fear I failed.

"Why has there been nothing about her in the papers?" she asked.

how things were with you.

how things were with you.

"I—I can't tell you that," she said, after a short wait. "I wish I could. I'm grateful to you. You've been wonderful—and you've earned the right to my con-

"I don't want it as a right," I protested.
"I only want to help you, and I can't do
it intelligently unless I know more about
things. You must see that."

"But there isn't anything you can do. I'd love to be frank with you—truly; but I'm in a peculiar position—something you could never imagine. I've so much you could never imagine. I've so much at stake. Won't you please go on just a while longer saying nothing? Won't you? Only until the eighth of November."

"The eighth?" I echoed in wonder; then, to cover my surprise, I asked quickly: "You mean I shall see you then? Where?"

"I'll write you where. "You promise that? It's not another

invitation—to tea?"
She laughed out at that, and the sound

lifted a load off my chest.
"It was dreadful of me to break my engagement," she confessed with charming contrition. "But I sha'n't break this. I promise. I'll write you at the Cecil—you see, I haven't forgotten. I was going to write anyway, as soon as I could, and explain."

"Were you really? Is that straight?"
"Yes—it's straight," she returned,
ughing again. "And now I must say laughing again. "And now I must say good night; it's nearly eleven o'clock. But first I want to apologize for doing you an injustice the other day. I knew when I asked you to tea that I shouldn't be there. I—I wanted to punish you. I thought the reason you pretended to know me and wanted to see me again was because I was the rich Miss Hoyt."

"Heavens! If you only knew how I felt when I found it out. Why, I've been hoping and praying for two days that you're not Miss Hoyt."

SHE said nothing to that for a minute, then: "Isn't that a very queer thing to

say to me, considering—everything?"

"But I'm not considering everything!
I'm considering only that Miss Hoyt has
two millions and—is in love with Herbert Farnham."

She made me wait again, and this time

tiss Hoyt." It was hard to get out, but it was worth it.

There followed the briefest of pauses.

"There was nothing about that in the apers," she said then.

"No: but some people are saving so."

"Yes."

"Yes."

"I shall not have two millions on the eighth of November, and—I shall never marry Mr. Farnham," she said.

"Do you mean that?"

"Yes."

"Then—is there a chance for anybody else?

"Oh, no; not for-anybody. Good night."
"How about somebody?"

She laughed.
"Well, I'm not going to be an old maid.
Good night."

"Wait a minute; I've something else Good night!" came softly, more

faintly.

"But I'm serious. Please come back.
It's about Farnham."

And truly at that instant it did flash over me that I ought to tell her she had misjudged him. It was the only square thing to do. He could not reach her himself, so of course he would want her to know-that is, if she were Miss Hoyt. Bearing that uncertainty in mind, chose my words carefully.

"Something has happened since you left that leaves him free to tell you now what he could not before," I said.
"What has happened?" she questioned after a pause, as if she too were advanc-

ing warily.
"That I can't tell you," I replied.

"That I can't tell you," I replied. "I have given my word. But I will say this: it concerns what you were told about him and—Miss Mary Leighton."

"I paid her not to talk."

"You paid her! Then you believed "I"

"I—don't know."

"Then you're bribing her to shield me, from what, pray?"

"I don't know that, either. I was just I saw no harm in adding: From what, pray?" the breaking of Miss Hoyt "I don't know that, either. I was just I saw no harm in adding:

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